

REMARKS

Claims 76-104 are pending in the present application. No amendments have been made by way of the present submission. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action the Examiner has asserted that the present application contains groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT rule 13.1, as follows:

Group I, claims 76-88, 91, and 100, drawn to a therapeutic composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (I);

Group II, claims 89, 90, and 104, drawn to macromolecular conjugates comprising at least two compounds of formula (I);

Group III, claims 92-97, drawn to methods of treatment comprising the administration of at least two compounds of formula (I);

Group IV, claim 98, drawn to a method of improving food safety comprising coating a food product with a composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (I);

Group V, claim 99, drawn to a nutritional composition comprising at least two compounds of formula (I);

Group VI, claims 101 and 102, drawn to methods of analysis or diagnostics comprising contacting a microbe with compounds of formula (I); and

Group VII, claims 103, drawn to method for search or design of bacteria binding oligosaccharide substances.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that the inventions listed in the above groups do not relate to a single general inventive concept because, under PCT rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants respectfully point out that at least in relation to the compositions according to the invention disclosure Prieto et al. is not relevant prior art, and thus there is no need to separate monovalent or polyvalent structures or various product types.

Furthermore, the therapeutic effects of individual components in Prieto et al. have not been clearly established in the article, and thus Prieto et al. cannot be considered as prior art for effective therapeutic composition with synergistically active components as disclosed in the present invention.

However, in order to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action Applicants hereby elect, Group III, claims 92-97, drawn to methods of treatment comprising the administration of at least two compounds of formula (I). This is an election with traverse as noted above.

Additionally, with in the context of the elected group, Applicants hereby elect the following two species:

- 1) neolactoreceptors of Formula XIV in claim 85, in particular LnNT (Gal $\beta$ 4G1cNAc $\beta$ 3Gal $\beta$ 4G1c); and
- 2) sialic acid receptors or Formula XVI in claim 85, in particular Neu5X $\alpha$ 3Gal $\beta$ 4G1c and more specifically Neu5Ac $\alpha$ 3Gal $\beta$ 4G1c.

Applicants note that both of the above glycans can be searched with the common sequence Gal $\beta$ 4G1c(NAc).

It is Applicants understanding that the above Election of Species serves as a starting point for search and examination purposes only. Upon indication of allowable subject matter for the elected species, the Examiner is expected to expand the search to include non-elected species, with the intent of finding the generic claims ultimately allowable.

In view of the above, favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Craig A. McRobbie, Registration No 42,874 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☒ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☒ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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